

Yun, Joseph

From: Karen Christensen [kchristensen@rcdsantacruz.org]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2007 11:05 AM
To: Billington, Tracie; Yun, Joseph
Cc: 'Monica Reid'; john.ricker@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Subject: IRWM Proposed Guideline comments

Hello Tracie,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposed draft guidelines for the Prop 84 IRWM program. In general we are supportive of the proposed approach to the IRWM Planning and Implementation Grant Programs.

We agree with the emphasis on quality planning. We think that improving the quality and consistency of IRWM plans and planning efforts will provide value at many levels. There is no “one size fits all” however consistency in the quality of plans will help advance cooperation within the funding region.

We need more information about the proposed “quality indicators” before we can support.

We suggest that Urban Water Management Plan review process is an appropriate example of statewide consistency in plan review.

We agree with the emphasis on incorporating flood planning into IRWM efforts. This will strengthen the IRWM process and could potentially foster innovations in water management at the local. We support the idea of using additional funds from Prop 84 Chapter 3 (Flood Control) to further this objective.

We suggest that the “Climate Change” IRWM Plan Standard should be embedded in the other standards to avoid repetition and redundancy in the Plans.

We agree with the million dollar cap on planning grants.

We suggest that within the planning grant program, there should also be grants to fund IRWM Coordinator positions – similar to the Dept. of Conservation watershed coordinator grant program. The IRWM Coordinator would work at the funding-area level, with a counterpart in the state agency. We suggest that it may be very appropriate to have the State IRWM Funding Area Coordinator “housed” at the Regional Water Board. On the Central Coast in particular, this would be a good scenario. The “IRWM Funding Area Coordinator Grant” could provide another mechanism towards consistency and cost-effectiveness, by identifying and supporting some functions that are universal to all regions.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
 Karen

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